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**From:** Hubbard, Joseph [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=12DA01B7420C40C58129D0744CC40F65-HUBBARD, JOSEPH]  
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**To:** R6Press [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=36e6a74f07ae4de9a967e27a9f33ca3a-R6Press]  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Oct. 10  
**Attachments:** Daily News Digest 10102017.pdf

**1 — E.P.A. Announces Repeal of Major Obama-Era Carbon Emissions Rule, NY Times, 10/9/17**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/climate/clean-power-plan.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/climate/clean-power-plan.html?_r=1)

The Trump administration announced on Monday that it would take formal steps to repeal President Barack Obama's signature policy to curb greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, setting up a bitter fight over the future of America's efforts to tackle global warming. At an event in eastern Kentucky, Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, said that his predecessors had departed from regulatory norms in crafting the Clean Power Plan, which was finalized in 2015 and would have pushed states to move away from coal in favor of sources of electricity that produce fewer carbon emissions.

**2 — Nuclear environmental group appeals EPA decision on LANL discharge, LaMonitor, 10/9/17**

<http://www.lamonitor.com/content/nuclear-environmental-group-appeals-epa-decision-lanl-discharge>

A New Mexico environmental and nuclear safety organization is appealing a request rejected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that could have made sampling soil at a dormant discharge area on Los Alamos National Laboratory property possible. A pipe that discharged nuclear and chemical waste from 1963-2010 on Los Alamos National Laboratory is exempt from Clean Water Act testing. Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety filed an appeal with EPA's Region 6 office March 9 to end Clean Water Act protection for a waste discharge pipe connected to LANL's Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility.

**3 — What's being done about Superfund sites around Oklahoma, KFOR, 10/10/17**

<http://kfor.com/2017/10/10/whats-being-done-about-superfund-sites-around-oklahoma/>

Many Oklahomans know about our most famous Superfund site, near the abandoned mine town of Picher, Oklahoma in the far northeastern corner of the state. In Ottawa County, you'll find man-made mountains of lead-laden toxins. They are a reminder of a time when environmental disasters were born; decades when industry trumped health and safety.

**4 — High Levels Of Lead In Soil Raise Parents' Concerns, News 9, 10/10/17**

<http://www.news9.com/story/36557945/high-levels-of-lead-in-soil-raise-parents-concerns>

Construction projects in Philadelphia's river wards are on the rise. Some parents worry that when construction crews don't follow dust regulations, hazardous lead particles could end up in places where children play. The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News recently tested more than 100 parks, playgrounds and backyards in the city's river wards. Nearly 75 percent of the areas tested had hazardous levels of lead.

**5 — J.T. WILLIAMS: EPA THREATENS GALVESTON BAY WITH TOXIC WASTE DISASTER, Heartland, 10/9/17**

<https://www.heartland.org/multimedia/podcasts/jt-williams-epa-threatens-galveston-bay-with-toxic-waste-disaster>

Against the advice the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers the Environmental Protection Agency is threatening to dredge a Superfund site in Texas an operation that is likely to pollute the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay. J.T. Williams, executive director of the Galveston Maritime Business Association describes a dangerous situation in Texas. Against the advice the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Texas Commission of

Environmental Quality, and the wishes of the business and property owners communities in the region, holdovers from the Obama administration EPA Region 6 are threatening to pursue a dredging operation at a Superfund site in Texas that is likely to pollute the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay.

**6 — East Ascension drainage officials agree to dredge New River Bayou, remove two weirs, Advocate, 10/9/17**

[http://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/communities/ascension/article\\_08484f82-ad42-11e7-9956-533fd66c4654.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/communities/ascension/article_08484f82-ad42-11e7-9956-533fd66c4654.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

East Ascension drainage officials agreed Monday to dredge nearly three miles of a major waterway through the heart of Gonzales and to remove two longstanding weirs thought to inhibit drainage, but held off backing another nearly \$94 million in other drainage projects across the parish for at least a month. An on-and-off topic through the years, the plan to remove the weirs and dredge New River Bayou is estimated to cost several million dollars and is among 15 projects listed on the five-year capital improvement plan the East Ascension Gravity Drainage District Board of Commissioners was expected to consider Monday.

**7 — After hurricanes, Congress ponders future of flood insurance program, Texas Tribune, 10/9/17**

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/10/09/flood-insurance/>

The devastating hit Houston took from Hurricane Harvey has exacerbated — and highlighted — the enormous financial jam facing the National Flood Insurance Program. Thanks to the recent onslaught of hurricanes hitting Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, there has never been a greater need for the program. But that need has also set off a new round of calls to dramatically overhaul a program that hasn't been able to sustain itself without major subsidies from the U.S. Treasury.

**8 — Are Electric Vehicles Pushing Oil Demand Over a Cliff?, Inside Climate News, 10/10/17**

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/10102017/electric-vehicles-killing-oil-demand-china-gm-ev-future-automakers>

A research note from Barclay's Bank last week summed up what the boom in electric vehicles, along with gains in fuel efficiency, might mean for oil demand—a reduction, by 2025, almost as large as Iran's total production. And if electric vehicles seize a third of the car market by 2040, the drop in demand would be nearly as much as Saudi Arabia produces. That kind of jaw-dropping outlook has become increasingly common in recent months amid signs that a tipping point is coming for electric vehicles.

**9 — Complaints surge about weed killer dicamba's damage to oak trees, Investigate Midwest, 10/9/17**

<http://investigatemidwest.org/2017/10/09/complaints-surge-about-weed-killer-dicambas-damage-to-oak-trees/>

As soybean and cotton farmers across the Midwest and South continue to see their crops ravaged from the weed killer dicamba, new complaints have pointed to the herbicide as a factor in widespread damage to oak trees. Monsanto and BASF, two of agriculture's largest seed and pesticide providers, released versions of the dicamba this growing season. The new versions came several months after Monsanto released its latest cotton and soybean seeds genetically engineered to resist dicamba in 2016.

**10 — After Harvey, mosquito-sprayed rice still counts as organic, Greenwire, 10/9/17**

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2017/10/09/stories/1060063015>

The Department of Agriculture has announced that mosquito spraying in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey did not compromise Texas' crop of organic rice, a big relief for growers. After the storm dumped an estimated 34 trillion gallons of rain on Texas, state and federal officials asked the Air Force to blanket swaths of the state with pesticides to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in standing pools of water and spreading disease.

**11 Environmental Groups Worry About New EPA Haze Rule, Houston Public Media, 10/9/17**

<http://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/energy-environment/2017/10/09/241519/environmental-groups-worry-about-new-epa-haze-rule/>

Environmental groups are worried the Environmental Protection Agency is giving Texas power plants a pass on pollution. The agency has decided that plants won't need to install new emissions controls to clean up haze over national parks. The Obama Administration had pushed for the controls. Now, the EPA is planning to let Texas power plants pursue "alternatives." Those include a new "cap and trade" emissions credit program within the state.

## **12 HURRICANE NATE HALTS OVER 90 PERCENT OF GULF OIL PRODUCTION, Texas Standard, 10/10/17**

<http://www.texasstandard.org/stories/categories/energy-environment/>

Over the weekend, Hurricane Nate made landfall in Mississippi, making it the fourth storm to hit the U.S. this year. Though the hurricane missed Texas' energy-producing Gulf Coast, the oil industry did not emerge from the storm unscathed. Matt Smith, director of commodity research at ClipperData, says that Hurricane Nate's effect on the energy industry in Texas is the direct opposite of Harvey's impact. Although very few offshore refineries have been damaged due to the storm, a great many refineries in the Gulf were offline as of yesterday.

## **13 The E.P.A.'s Smoke and Mirrors on Climate, NY Times, 10/9/17**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/opinion/environmental-protection-obama-pruitt.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/opinion/environmental-protection-obama-pruitt.html?_r=0)

The Trump administration has mangled the costs and benefits of one of the most significant climate regulations of the Obama years in an effort to justify its repeal, which Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, announced on Monday. In a leaked series of new analyses, the agency claims that jettisoning the Clean Power Plan, which limits planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power plants, will save electric power producers up to \$33 billion annually by 2030.